

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS

1. IN LIGHT OF LUCIO CABANAS' INCREASING IMPORTANCE AS A GUERRILLA LEADER, THE FOLLOWING AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS BEING FORWARDED.

2. LEGAL NAME: LUCIO CABANAS BARRIENTOS. ALIASES: TIRSO LOPEZ MECINOS; VELENTE; MORENO; VALENTIN; AND DIEGO. MEXICAN CITIZEN. CABANAS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE PUEBLO OF SAN VICENTE DE BENITEZ, MUNICIPALITY OF ATOYAC DE ALVAREZ, STATE OF GUERRERO. DATE OF BIRTH UNKNOWN, BUT HE IS BELIEVED TO BE IN HIS LATE 30'S.

3. HE WAS ORIGINALLY A TEACHER BY PROFESSION AND AS OF 1961 WAS A MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF NORMAL SCHOOL STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT KNOWN WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS TRAINING. AS OF 1963, HE WAS A LEADER OF THE FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST MEXICAN PEASANT STUDENTS. ON JUNE 24, 1966, HIS "EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES" IN ATOYAC WHERE HE WAS TEACHING SCHOOL CAUSED THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO ORDER HIM TRANSFERRED TO A DISTANT TEACHING ASSIGNMENT IN TUITAN, DURANGO. WHILE IN TUITAN HE REPORTEDLY ORGANIZED A YOUTH GROUP.

4. CABANAS' COMMITMENT TO FULL-TIME "REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITY EVIDENTLY BEGAN SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. HE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE "LIBERATION" OF FELLOW GUERRERO GUERRILLA
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LEADER GENARO VAZQUEZ ROJAS FROM POLICE CUSTODY IN IGUALA,

GUERRERO, IN LATE 1967. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO BE A LEADER OF ONE OF TWO GUERRILLA GROUPS OF THE GUERRERO CIVIC ASSOCIATION (LATER RENAMED NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY CIVIC ASSOCIATION) LED BY VAZQUEZ ROJAS, ALTHOUGH A 1972 STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO CABANAS CONTAINS A DENIAL THAT THEIR TWO GROUPS WERE EVER AFFILIATED. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN THE 1960'S CABANAS WAS USED BY THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) TO TRAIN MEMBERS IN GUERRILLA WARFARE. HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST FACTION OF THE CENTRAL CAMPESINA INDEPENDIENTE (CCI). HOWEVER, CABANAS APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN ALL TIES WITH THE RELATIVELY QUIESCENT PCM AND TO HAVE ADOPTED A MUCH MORE ACTIVIST COURSE. BY 1971 HE HAD SEVERAL SUBORDINATE GROUPS UNDER HIS COMMAND, OF WHICH AT LEAST ONE WAS A BAND OF COMMON CRIMINALS.

5. CABANAS WAS OF COURSE KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE IN GUERRILLA OPERATIONS PRIOR TO 1972, BUT HE REMAINED IN THE SHADOW OF VAZQUEZ ROJAS SO LONG AS THE LATTER LIVED. WITH THE DEATH OF VAZQUEZ ROJAS IN AN AUTOMOBILE CRASH IN FEBRUARY 1972, CABANAS BEGAN TO COME INTO HIS OWN. IT WAS AT ABOUT THIS TIME ALSO THAT THE NAMES OF CABANAS' ORGANIZATION BEGAN TO BE HEARD PUBLICLY. HE CALLS HIS OVER-ALL GROUP THE PARTIDO DE LOS POBRE (POOR PEOPLE'S PARTY) AND USES THE TERM "BRIGADA CAMPESINA DE AJUSTICIAMIENTO" (PEASANTS' EXECUTIONARY BRIGADE) WHEN HIS GROUP TAKES VARIOUS FORMS OF TERRORIST ACTION SUCH AS KIDNAPPING, BANK ROBBERIES, OR THE AMBUSH OF SMALL MILITARY UNITS (TWO IN 1972 AND ONE IN 1973).

6. CABANAS PRIMARY BASE OF OPERATIONS IS THE RUGGED HILL-COUNTRY (SIERRA -- WHERE CABANAS REPORTEDLY HAS MANY BLOOD RELATIVES AND OTHER SYMPATHIZERS) INLAND FROM THE TOWNS OF ATOYAC AND TECPAN DE GALEANA, ALTHOUGH HIS GROUP HAS CARRIED OUT OPERATIONS IN ACAPULCO AND OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE. HE IS BLAMED (PERHAPS NOT ALWAYS ACCURATELY) FOR A SERIES OF KIDNAPPINGS IN GUERRERO WHICH IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1974 ALONE SUPPOSEDLY NETTED EIGHT MILLION PESOS (US\$640,000) IN RANSOM MONEY. SOME OF HIS KIDNAPPING VICTIMS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN MURDERED WHEN RANSOMS WERE NOT PAID.

7. CABANAS' APPARENT ULTIMATE AIM IS THE OVERTHROW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEXICAN GOVERNMENT BY VIOLENCE AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IN THE CURRENT KIDNAPPING OF THE PRI CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO, SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA, CABANAS' DEMANDS OF THE GOM, UNLESS THEY ARE TOTALLY PROPAGANDISTIC, INCLUDE CALLS FOR REMEDIAL ACTION BY THE GOM ITSELF AND SUGGEST REALIZATION ON HIS PART THAT GOAL OF OVERTHROW IS FAR-DISTANT.

8. CABANAS APPARENTLY MAKES MUCH OF HIS INDEPENDENCE OF OTHER GUERRILLA ORGANIZATIONS (SEE PARA 4, SUPRA), BUT HIS SECOND COMMUNIQUE IN THE FIGUEROA CASE (SEE MEXICO 4967) CONTAINS SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY CONFRONT THE GOM.

9. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO AGREED GOM ESTIMATE OF CURRENT SIZE OF CABANAS' GROUP; SOME ESTIMATES ARE THAT HE HAS NO MORE THAN 50 OR 100 ARMED AND DISCIPLINED REGULAR FOLLOWERS. IN HIS IMMEDIATE AREA OF OPERATIONS, HOWEVER, CABANAS APPEARS TO ENJOY CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY, AND HE MAY BE ABLE TO AUGMENT HIS REGULAR GROUP WHEN NECESSARY. AT VERY LEAST, HE SEEMS ABLE TO RELY ON LOCAL OPPOSITION TO ALL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY FOR A DEGREE OF PROTECTION FROM SECURITY AGENCIES. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT AS OF LATE 1973 CABANAS HAD BEEN WOUNDED OR WAS SERIOUSLY ILL. SCOPE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN 1974, HOWEVER, WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE IS EXTREMELY ACTIVE. CABANAS IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN GROUPS OR OFFICIALS.
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